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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03627 260726Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------260727Z 120276 /13
R 260705Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2248

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3627

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR IR
SUBJ: INVITATION TO THE SHAH TO VISIT WASHINGTON

1. AS THE NAMES OF CHIEFS OF STATE INVITED TO VISIT WASHINGTON CONTINUE TO ROLL IN, THE SHAH IS GOING TO BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT HE IS NOT AMONG THEM. (ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS TODAY, THE LATEST INVITEE IS MOROCCO'S KING HASSAN.) AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, THE SHAH VALUES HIGHLY THE PERSONAL RAPPORT HE BELIEVES HE ENJOYED WITH PAST PRESIDENTS. HE ALSO ASSUMES WE SEE HIM AND OUR RELATIONS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO MERIT HIS BEING INVITED TO MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT FAIRLY EARLY ON IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TOLD OF HIS EXPECTATIONS IN THIS REGARD (TEHRAN 1625 AND NEW DELHI 2243). WHILE THE SHAH CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDS THE PRIORITY LEADERS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE IN THIS RESPECT AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES, WE BELIEVE HE WILL BE LESS UNDERSTANDING THAT HE APPARENTLY DOES NOT STAND IN LINE BEFORE, IN HIS VIEW, LESSER LIGHTS SUCH AS KING HASSAN.

2. THE SHAH, IS, OF COURSE, REASSURED BY THE PROSPECT OF THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT WHICH HE SEES AS A SIGN THAT WE CONTINUE TO VALUE OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND HE CLEARLY LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL
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QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. NEVERTHELESS, AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST REIGNING CHIEFS OF STATE WHO BELIEVES THAT HE HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, HE WILL FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE HAS NOT HAD SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE FEELERS HE HAS PUT OUT. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT EITHER THE SECRETARY OR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THIS QUESTION WHEN THEY MEET WITH THE

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SHAH AND, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, GIVE HIM SOME INDICATION OF WHEN
AN INVITATION TO MEET THE PRESIDENT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING.
MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN03627
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-1021
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770417/aaaaaofi.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2687246
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVITATION TO THE SHAH TO VISIT WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e69c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009